



**GOVERNOR'S  
COMMISSION ON  
SUICIDE PREVENTION**  

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**MARYLAND**

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention Meeting  
November 18, 2020 1:00pm-3:00pm

**Commission Members on Phone**

Robert Anderson	Department of Juvenile Services
Edward Bartlinski	Department of Police, Local Corrections, or Fire and Rescue
Lynda Bonieskie	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Shameka Burke	LGBTQ Community Representative
Dana Burl	Department of Veterans Affairs
Janel Cabbage (Chair)	Behavioral Health Administration
Christina Drushel-Williams	Children and Youth Division, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt	Member of the Maryland Senate
Monica Guerrero Vazquez	Hispanic/Latino Community
Kevin Johnson	Faith Community
Amy Kulp	Suicide Prevention Group
Jennilyn Landbeck	Family Member
Georgette Lavetsky	Deputy Secretary Public Health
The Honorable Eric Luedtke	Member of the House of Delegates
Cynthia Macri	Asian American/Pacific Islander Community
Lynne Muller	Maryland State Department of Education
Dustin Richardson	American Indian Community
Kirsten Robb-McGrath	Department of Disabilities
Gabrielle Ryder	High School Student Representative
Haley Taylor	Maryland Addictions Directors Council
Holly Wilcox (Vice Chair)	Academic Community
Eileen Zeller	Mental Health Association of Maryland

**Workgroup Lead**

Lanny Berman	Suicide Fatality Review Workgroup
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**Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staff**

Natalie Miller	Behavioral Health Administration
Indu Radhakrishnan	Behavioral Health Administration

**Other**

Sarah Brummett	Colorado Suicide Prevention Director
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### **Welcome and Introductions**

Commission Chair Cabbage welcomed all attendees to the Commission meeting. Commissioners introduced themselves.

### **Approval of September 16, 2020 minutes**

No corrections were made to the minutes. Minutes were approved.

### **Colorado Suicide Death Reporting**

Sarah Brummett, Colorado Suicide Prevention Director, presented on suicide death reporting and data collection in Colorado. Their coroner system is decentralized so they created a Suicide Investigation Form to ensure data and reporting is congruent between counties. The form includes specific sections on information gaps for sexual orientation/ gender identity, military service history, firearm information, and postvention resources to better collect relevant data on suicide risk and inform prevention efforts.

### **Governor's Challenge Updates**

Commissioner Burl provided updates on the Governor's Challenge. Maryland's Commitment to Veterans/ BHA and Maryland's Veterans Affairs are working to develop a Comprehensive veteran Suicide Prevention Plan, which is part of SB521 signed into law in 2019 that requires the first portion of the plan to be presented to the Governor's Office and General Assembly by July 1, 2021. The Governor's Challenge has also launched the "Ask the Question" campaign to build awareness within health care and related services on the importance of asking, "Have you or a loved one ever served in the military?"

### **Suicide Surveillance**

Commissioner Cabbage shared information on the recent development of the Suicide Surveillance Team to identify trends, cluster and possible intervention to mitigate deaths by suicide. The team will focus on how to mitigate factors that have increased suicide risk due to COVID-19. BHA is determining if a press release would be appropriate to inform current suicide rates in Maryland.

### **Membership Changes**

Commissioner Powell will be stepping down from the Commission as of December 1, 2020.

### **Workgroup Discussion**

Commissioner Cabbage discussed the 3 workgroups that are active and identified that the Training workgroup is duplicative of the Suicide Prevention Office which provides regular



ongoing trainings. Suicide Prevention Office is in the process of building a website to provide online-modules, recorded webinars and CEU's for all content. The Commission discussed how to determine if the workgroups should be continued or if we should end any of the workgroups. There was agreement that the workgroups should be aligned with the objectives of the State Plan and identify how to collaborate with other resources to achieve priorities. This requires further discussion, and the Commission needs to review commission objectives, commission's role and what tasks the state office can appropriately manage.

### **2021 Meeting Schedule**

The bi-monthly meeting schedule was shared with all commissioners. Meetings will continue to be held virtually via Zoom.

### **Open Discussion**

Commissioner Eckardt provided a legislative update on suicide prevention and health legislation. Commissioner Macri shared that the Asian American Inter-Community Services received a grant from the Community Health Resources Association to engage peer health workers.

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.**